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EXAMINER

WEDDINGTON, KEVIN E

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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Claims 1-12 are presented for examination.

Applicants' response filed September 9, 2008 has received and entered.

Double Patenting

The nonstatutory double patenting rejection is based on a judicially created doctrine grounded in public policy (a policy reflected in the statute) so as to prevent the unjustified or improper timewise extension of the "right to exclude" granted by a patent and to prevent possible harassment by multiple assignees. A nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting rejection is appropriate where the conflicting claims are not identical, but at least one examined application claim is not patentably distinct from the reference claim(s) because the examined application claim is either anticipated by, or would have been obvious over, the reference claim(s). See, e.g., *In re Berg*, 140 F.3d 1428, 46 USPQ2d 1226 (Fed. Cir. 1998); *In re Goodman*, 11 F.3d 1046, 29 USPQ2d 2010 (Fed. Cir. 1993); *In re Longi*, 759 F.2d 887, 225 USPQ 645 (Fed. Cir. 1985); *In re Van Ornum*, 686 F.2d 937, 214 USPQ 761 (CCPA 1982); *In re Vogel*, 422 F.2d 438, 164 USPQ 619 (CCPA 1970); and *In re Thorington*, 418 F.2d 528, 163 USPQ 644 (CCPA 1969).

A timely filed terminal disclaimer in compliance with 37 CFR 1.321(c) or 1.321(d) may be used to overcome an actual or provisional rejection based on a nonstatutory double patenting ground provided the conflicting application or patent either is shown to be commonly owned with this application, or claims an invention made as a result of activities undertaken within the scope of a joint research agreement.

Effective January 1, 1994, a registered attorney or agent of record may sign a terminal disclaimer. A terminal disclaimer signed by the assignee must fully comply with 37 CFR 3.73(b).

Claims 1-12 are again provisionally rejected on the ground of nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-9 of copending Application No. 10/431,059; over claims 1-6 of copending Application No. 11/149,466; and over claims 1-6 of copending Application No. 11/244,903. Although the conflicting claims are not identical, they are not patentably distinct from each other because all of record, for reasons of record as set forth in the previous Office action dated July 11, 2008 at page 2 as applied to claims 1-12 are **MAINTAINED**.

Claims 1-12 are not allowed.

This is a provisional obviousness-type double patenting rejection because the conflicting claims have not in fact been patented.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

The factual inquiries set forth in *Graham v. John Deere Co.*, 383 U.S. 1, 148 USPQ 459 (1966), that are applied for establishing a background for determining obviousness under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) are summarized as follows:

1. Determining the scope and contents of the prior art.
2. Ascertaining the differences between the prior art and the claims at issue.
3. Resolving the level of ordinary skill in the pertinent art.
4. Considering objective evidence present in the application indicating obviousness or nonobviousness.

Claims 1-12 are again rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over WO 01/87372 A1, hereby known as Kopia et al. in view of Roorda et al. (US 2002/0188277 A1) and further in view of DeHaan et al. (4,743,327), all of record, for reasons of record as set forth in the previous Office action dated July 11, 2008 at pages 3-4 as applied to claims 1-12.

Applicants' amendment to claim 1 does not recite the "critical amount" of each individual active agent, 2-methoxyestradiol and rapamycin, combined together produced a "synergistic effect". The broad ranges of the two individual agents do not solve the problem for producing "synergistic effect". The broad ranges of the two

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individual agents when combined together may produce "an additive effect", and only the specific amounts combined may produce a "synergistic effect" only.

Claims 1-12 are not allowed.

/Kevin E. Weddington/

Primary Examiner, Art Unit 1614